

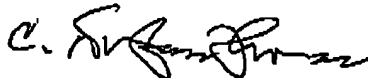
REMARKS

In the Office Action, the examiner allowed claims 1-13, 17-19 and 24-26. In addition, the examiner rejected claims 20-23 under 35 USC section 103(a). Although Applicants respectfully disagree with the examiner's rejection of claims 20-23, to expedite prosecution of this application, Applicants have canceled claims 20-23 from the application without prejudice or disclaimer. Consequently, all pending claims (claims 1-13, 17-19 and 24-26) have been allowed. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request a Notice of Allowance for this application. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Applicants hereby petition for an extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee for such extension or any further fee required in connection with the filing of this Amendment is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0388.

Respectfully submitted,

BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP



C. Douglass Thomas  
Reg. No. 32,947

P.O. Box 70250  
Oakland, CA 94612-0250  
(650) 961-8300